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A project of the JUSTICE AND PEACE COORDINATING COMMITTEE for Asia and Oceania, administered by CENTER FOR THE PROGRESS OF PEOPLES.

hot-line ASIA-OCEANIA
A SERVICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

October 14, 1986.

Dear Friends,

URGENT

There is continued concern for the state of human rights in East Timor. This year, a bipartisan group of 125 Congressmen expressed their concern for the "human tragedy" in East Timor to President Reagan before his state visit to Indonesia. Yet the violations of individuals and community continue. We have just received news from friends of the arrest and disappearrance of some of their personal East Timorese friends.

Arrest and Disappearance of East Timorese Students
HAP/CPP 861014 (11)

In September, three East Timorese university students disappeared after being detained by the Indonesian authorities in Jakarta. They are:

Antonino Goncalves, 34, from Atsabe, East Timor, was a sergeant in the Portugese army before being active in the armed resistance when the Indonesians invaded East Timor. His parents, wife and all known immediate family died in 1978, when he either surrendered or was captured. He received a scholarship to study in Jakarta in 1981 and is a final year law student at Atmajaya University in Jakarta. According to Amnesty International (A.I.) sources, at 10.30a.m. on September 3, 1986, he was drinking coffee with two other students at the University when three men in civilian clothes, believed to be from Indonesian military intelligence arrested him. The men arrived in the university in a grey car with licence plate B1136V. Efforts to establish his whereabouts by fellow students and concerned church personnel have been unsuccessful.

Joao Freitas Da Camara, 29, from Suai, East Timor, a final year law student at the Atmajaya University, was arrested at midnight on September 16, 1986.

Francisco Fernandes Carvalho, 30, from Uatocarbo, East Timor, an engineering student at the Atmajaya University, was arrested at 5.00 a.m., on September 17, 1986. Like Joao Da Camara, he is single and has been studying in Jakarta since 1981.

From our sources, we are confident that these arrests have occured. However, it is not known where the three are being held, by whom or on what grounds. A.I. and a number of other organisations have expressed fears that the three may be tortured during interrogation.

For your information, another student, Benedicto Goncalves, is also reported by the Agence France Presse (AFP) in Jakarta, to have been arrested in East Timor, but there has been no independent confirmation of this. The report suggests that the Benedicto and the other three students were arrested after, weapons and explosives were found in East Timor. No independent confirmation of this report is available. Another report suggests that six other young East Timorese were arrested during an army raid by Indonesian military on a church in Atsabe, East Timor, reportedly prompted by the discovery of weapons in the Atsabe area. Again no independent confirmation is available. You may enquire about these allegations in your letters.

The issue is urgent and requires your prompt attention and action.

48 Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel.: 3-7145123
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Your Action Requested :

a) URGENT enquiries should be made:
   1) seeking official confirmation of all reported detentions;
   2) expressing concern that torture may be or have been used;
   3) urging that whereabouts and charges be known;
   4) urging that access be given to lawyers and friends.

These enquiries should be addressed to:

1) General Benny Murdani,
   HANKAM,
   Jl. Merdeka Barat,
   Jakarta, Indonesia.

2) Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja,
   Foreign Minister,
   Jl. Taman Prejambon 6,
   Jakarta, Indonesia.

3) The Indonesian diplomatic representative in your country.

4) The Minister of Foreign Affairs in your country.

b) Please try to publicise this issue and generate more enquiries of concern through government and non-governmental channels.

Sample Letter to 1), 2) and 3)(Please try not to copy this)

Dear Sir,

I am writing about the reported arrest and disappearance of the following:
1) Antonino Goncalves, 34, law student;
2) Joao Freitas Da Camara, 29, law student;
3) Francisco Fernandes Carvalho, 30, engineering student;
all East Timorese studying at the Atmajaya University in Jakarta.

I am extremely concerned about their whereabouts and the possible use of torture against them.

It would put my mind at ease and improve my view of justice in your country if you could officially confirm the arrest and detentions of the three and state the charges against them. I would also be grateful, if you could officially confirm the whereabouts of the three and if you would assure me that access be given to their lawyers and friends.

I wish to thank you in advance for your action on these requests. I am hopeful that your humanity will prevail. Thank-you for your time and attention. I look forward to positive news and developments on these three students.

Please remember to send us copies of your letters. Thank-you, take care and God bless.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Tse

Christine Tse,
Coordinator, Hotline Asia/Oceania.

General Benny Murdani,
HANKAM,
Jl. Merdeka Barat,
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dear Sir,

We are citizen in Japan concerned with the human rights of our Asian neighbors and those around the world.

We are deeply pay attention to the news of East Timor situation these days. This time we are writing about the reported arrest and disappearance of the following;

1) Antonio Goncalves, 34, from Atsabe, East Timor, law student at Atmajaya University in Jakarta
2) Joao Freitas Da Camara, 29, from Suai, East Timor, law student at Atmajaya University in Jakarta
3) Francisco Fernandes Carvalho, 30, from Uatocarbo, East Timor, engineering student at Atmajaya University in Jakarta

We are extremely concerned about their whereabouts and the possible use of torture against them. We appeal to you, on humanitarian grounds, to officially confirm the arrest and detentions of the three and state the charges against them. We would be very grateful if you could look into this case and also if you would assure us that access be given to their lawyers and friends.

We wish to thank you in advance for your action on these requests. We are hopeful that your humanity will prevail. Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to positive news and developments on these three students.

Yours Faithfully,